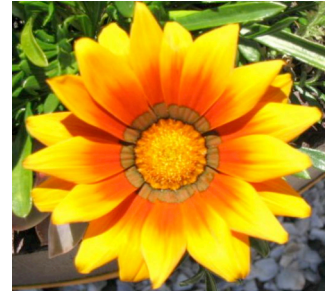


Using the Digital Camera in the Primary Classroom

Teachers across the country and around the world are discovering the many valuable uses for digital cameras; uses that both engage students and make their own professional lives easier.

Digital cameras are easy and fun to use and offer teachers unlimited opportunities to engage students to incorporate technology into their curriculum. If you can use a camera, you can use a digital camera -- and you can teach your students to use one too!



Teach the whole class how to take pictures with the camera. Children need to be trained in the independent use of the digital camera to record their experiences and achievements. It can provide children with the opportunity to be innovative and is an excellent way of them communicating their ideas, thoughts and feelings. Let each child practice. Pictures can simply be deleted and the child can start again. Once you have taken the time to teach them how to use it, they will remember and be quite proud of taking pictures. This may be their first experience handling a camera, but you have opened a new horizon to them. They will always remember this experience in your classroom.



Keep in mind that these pictures could be used in imovie, iphoto, Talking Books, Word, Photoshop, Photofiltre, and many more programmes. Be creative and let your students explore different forms of communication.

Use your imagination, the sky's the limit! Display your creations outside your room, and do include your projects on your web page. You could upload these into Flickr, or Yoto Photo.

If you are going to use pictures of the children, be sure that you have the parents permission.

The BEST way to get the most out of ideas such as these is to let students do as much hands on as they are able. With good modelling by the teacher, repetitive instruction on the do's & don'ts of handling cameras, and encouraging observations by the teacher, even Foundation stage children should be able to take their own pictures to use in their projects.



Some ideas for using the camera in the classroom

1. Introducing colours- children walk around the classroom, school or outside taking pictures of the colour that you are introducing. Pictures may then be inserted into PowerPoint. You could produce a talking book for example, "Things That Are Blue". Recording your own voice to link to the pictures.
2. Introducing numbers- give each child a number ask them to find things that correspond with that number and take a picture of them. For example, if they are assigned the number 3, they may look around the classroom, school, or outside for things that are gathered in 3's. They may find three books together in the library, or three apples in the classroom. Then take a picture of the books or apples. You can then make a Number Book in Microsoft Word, with each number being a different page. You would have the child word process the word for the number; the figure for the number, and then insert the picture.
3. Introducing shapes, instruct the child to take pictures of various shapes. If they can find something that includes more than one shape in its object, give them extra points. Example: In a birdhouse, the child may find a circle, a triangle, and a rectangle. Their perception is excellent and should be recognized
4. Introducing letters of the alphabet. Give a child a letter and instruct them to find pictures that begin with that letter. Gather them into some type of publication.
5. Make a classification book, in which the child includes pictures that are alike in some way. On the next page, tell how they are similar; or different.
6. Compile a Proper Noun--Common Noun publication. The children need to find a picture of something that is a common noun and then find its companion, the proper noun. Place the pictures side by side and label each.
7. Introducing rhyming words, ask the children to take two pictures of things that rhyme. Place the pictures in a Rhyming Book.
8. The children can produce cards and include digital pictures in the cards, either of themselves or something of their choice.
9. Let the children take a picture of their choice and ask them write a few sentences or create a storybook using their pictures.
10. Introducing the days of the week, or calendar months, create a slide presentation demonstrating what they do on particular days. For the months, take pictures of

things that could happen during that month. You could create a birthday train using their pictures.

11. Introduction to graphs - (pictograms) use the pictures that the children have taken of the objects that you are surveying. Example: Kinds of Cereal We Like: take a picture of the cereal boxes. Insert the pictures into word or excel to produce a simple graph.
12. Ourselves - create a BODY PART book for science: head, arms, shoulder, legs, knees, trunk, toes, fingers, etc.
13. Science investigation - create a resource of things that are hot; things that are cold; natural objects and objects made by humans; plants, minibeasts etc.
14. People who help us - children can take a picture of people in different careers and create a careers or community helpers publication.
15. Assign a new "Class Photographer" each week. This children should have easy access to the digital camera. The assignment: to capture at least 1 photo of "learning in action" to be used in that week's newsletter home.
16. Insert a digital picture of you on your "Welcome to my classroom" card that you send out before school starts
17. Take lots of pictures when your class is on a field trip. Back in the classroom, each student can choose 1 picture to label with a short description of what was happening or why this was important.
18. Let the children dress up as "what they want to be when they grow up"
19. Take a series of pictures (1st step, 2nd step, etc) showing how to do something (how to add 2 numbers, how to conduct a science experiment, how to draw a picture in an art package, etc.).
20. First of all load a variety of bitmaps to you My Documents folder from various 'famous' sites around the world: Eiffel Tower, Wall of China, Buckingham Palace, Castle at Disney World, etc. Take a photo of the children, one at a time and then have them import them to the site. Depending on how well they cut around themselves, it looks like they are actually there. Use green screening and this way there is no cutting necessary.